Muhlenbergia asperifolia — Eleocharis parishii Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME Alkali muhly—Spike rush Herbaceous Vegetation

SYNONYM None

TNC SYSTEM Terrestrial

PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous

PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Perennial graminoid

PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar perennial grassland

FORMATION Intermittently flooded temperate or subpolar perennial grassland

ALLIANCE *Muhlenbergia asperifolia* Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

RANGE
Undefined and undescribed vegetation type.

Tuzigoot National Monument
This association is adjacent to the marsh.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
Tuzigoot National Monument
This association occurs on very poorly-drained, silt loam soils adjacent to the marsh.

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
Globally
Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument

Strata	Species
Herbaceous	*Muhlenbergia asperifolia, Eleocharis parishii, Cynodon dactylon*

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES
Globally
Information not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument
Muhlenbergia asperifolia, Eleocharis parishii

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION
Globally
Information is not available.

Tuzigoot National Monument
This is a simple vegetation type with only three species of any prominence: *Muhlenbergia asperifolia*, *Eleocharis parishii*, and *Cynodon dactylon* (in order of abundance). Other species are present in the community but contribute little to composition or structure of the vegetation. *Muhlenbergia asperifolia* forms the upper layer, up to 0.5 meter tall, of the community in combination with its two shorter associates. *Eleocharis parishii* is most abundant on more semi-permanently flooded soils, whereas *Cynodon dactylon* forms short grass layer on better-drained microsites. At Tuzigoot National Monument, this association is ecologically intermediate between more mesic *Cynodon dactylon* monocultures and more xeric *Distichlis stricta* stands.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES None

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION Not applicable

COMMENTS
This type may be a variant of the *Muhlenbergia asperifolia* association tentatively recognized in the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau.

On the Monument, this community intergrades with the *Prosopis velutina* associations and on wetter sites with *Scirpus validus* stands in the marsh.

REFERENCES
Bolen, E.G. 1964. Plant Ecology of Spring-fed Salt Marshes in Western Utah. Ecological Monographs 34(2):143-166.